

REMARKS

The Examiner has objected to the mis-numbering of Claims 86-92. Applicants note the renumbering of claims 86-92 to 87-93. Applicants note that all amendments and cancellations of Claims presented herein are made without acquiescing to any of the Examiner's arguments or rejections, and solely for the purpose of expediting the patent application process in a manner consistent with the PTO's Patent Business Goals (PBG),¹ and without waiving the right to prosecute the amended or cancelled Claims (or similar Claims) in the future.

In the present Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claim 23 as allegedly being anticipated by Cook (U.S. Patent 6, 017,895) (Office Action, pg. 3). The Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection. However, in order to further the business interests of the Applicants and while reserving the right to prosecute the original (or similar) claims in the future, the Applicants have canceled Claim 23. As such, the rejection is moot.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 3, 9, 10, 17, 25, 39-51, and 87-93 are allowed (Office Action, pg. 3). As these are the only Claims remaining in the case, the Applicants respectfully request that the case be passed to allowance.

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¹ 65 Fed. Reg. 54603 (Sept. 8, 2000).

CONCLUSION

All grounds of rejection and objection of the Office Action of October 6, 2003 having been addressed, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that the Claims should be allowed. Should the Examiner have any questions, or if a telephone conference would aid in the prosecution of the present application, Applicant encourages the Examiner to call the undersigned collect at 608-218-6900.

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